



# Community Outreach

## From Moraga Pear Orchards to Pear Paintings

James Irvine planted the majority of the pear orchards in Moraga around 1913. Moraga will celebrate its 50th Anniversary & Pear/Wine Festival on September 24, 2024. For the February 13th event, Justin Seligman, the very skilled classroom art teacher, assisted by CWA volunteers, Pat Moseuk, Georganne Zaro, and Sheila Cain, instructed his 20 students in drawing and creating pear paintings to be auctioned off at this festival.

We volunteers had arranged a grouping of pears on each table. The twenty students filed into the class and gathered around CWA volunteer, Pat Moseuk, as she demonstrated the drawing and painting of her pears, creating a composition with a variety of light and dark values. The students paid close attention. Justin had created watercolor guides and pointed out examples of using a cool-to-warm palette.

The students collected their palettes, paper, and brushes. Then settled down to examine and rearrange the pears for their paintings. Most weren't shy about creating big puddles of water and then adding the pigment. Apparently, Justin had emphasized using lots of water in watercolors. We volunteers had to limit the water that they were using and suggest that they increase the amount of pigment.

Once Pat's demo was dry, she demonstrated painting a wet-into-wet background and adding salt. She pointed out that pears are covered with dots and salt could be used both on the pears and on the background. In addition, Justin brought in a bright light for each table so the students could emphasize a light and shadow side in their pear compositions. At cleanup, the students each collected an iPad to record their compositions so that they could continue painting in an upcoming class period.

A number of these students were sophisticated artists. Their continued work brought their painting together into very successful artworks. As a CWA volunteer, I enjoyed learning the similarities and differences between my high school art classes and this art class at Campolindo High School. I felt certain that James Irvine would be thrilled to see how his pear orchards are being remembered. At the end of two days, the Campolindo students learned some of the joys of painting with watercolors.

*Sheila Cain*

Co-Director, Community Outreach





# Community Outreach March at the VA in Martinez

We decided to play with the color green rather than the traditional St. Patrick's Day theme. What is emerging is each artist expressing their individual artistic choices. Some artists sketched a bit. One thing is clear: these are individuals who apply themselves to the project at hand and create their own works.

Most artists have opinions about a teacher assisting a learner. Some people need assistance to express what they want to create. We deal with that by checking in. Colors? Where? Constant feedback and encouragement as much painting as the artist wants to do. The goal is to help them to feel in control of the project. We have witnessed tears of joy and a refusal to let go of a painting once completed. We may help them to "make a mark" but they are in control of the finished product.

*Maggie and Dale*  
Community Outreach Volunteers



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Jessica de Jesus, our new Social Media Volunteer, is sharing some engaging content. Like us on Facebook and Instagram to stay informed on what is happening. CWA Social Media is your resource for information, promoting the CWA, our members, events, and more.

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- Upcoming CWA Events
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## Carolyn Lord

*continued from page 1*



*Dan-de-Lawn* by Carolyn Lord



*Days End at the Pacific* by Carolyn Lord